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The Corundum Deposits of Georgia.²—This preliminary report on the corundum deposits of Georgia, by Francis P. King, has been issued as Bulletin No. 2 by the Geol. Survey of that State. The importance of corundum in the arts, and the high price paid for it, together with the fact that Georgia ranks second in the Union in the production of this mineral, make the report of special interest. The introductory chapters give the history, varieties and associate minerals of corundum, succeeded by a brief account of the geology of the crystalline belt in which the mineral occurs and the distribution of deposits. Several pages are given to the economics, including natural and artificial abrasives. There is also a bibliography of the American literature upon the subject.

The map accompanying the report is well-colored, showing at a glance the different formations. The other illustrations are reproductions from photographs, showing out-crops of the mineral bearing veins.

Bailey's Plant Breeding.³—No man in the country, perhaps, is better prepared to write a book on plant breeding than the accomplished professor of horticulture in Cornell University, and it is a pleasure to find that in the preparation of the work before us he has not disappointed his friends. There is, as the author says in his preface, much misapprehension and imperfect knowledge as to the origin of new forms of plants, and much of what has been written on the subject is misleading. "Horticulturists commonly look upon each novelty as an isolated fact, whilst we ought to regard each one as but an expression of some law of the variation of plants." The author might have included in the foregoing many "botanists" as well as the horticulturists, for, unfortunately, it is true that many who call themselves botanists, and who hold positions in honored institutions, have not yet risen to a biological conception of the science which they profess to cultivate.

Among the topics treated in these lectures are the following, viz.: individuality, fortuitous variation, sex as a factor in the variation of plants, physical environment and variation, struggle for life, division of labor, crossing, etc.

The book should be in every botanist's library, and every teacher of botany will do well to make copious extracts from it in his lectures.

² A Preliminary Report on the Corundum Deposits of Georgia. By Francis P. King, Bull. No. 2, Georgia Geological Survey, Atlanta, 1894.

³ *Plant Breeding*, being five lectures upon the Amelioration of Domestic Plants. By L. H. Bailey. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895. pp. xii, 293, 12 mo.

The following, from page 135, will show many teachers that much may be learned from this book: "Some two or three years ago, a leading eastern seedsman conceived of a new form of bean-pod which would at once commend itself to his customers. He was so well convinced of the merits of this prospective variety, that he made a descriptive and "taking" name for it. He then wrote to a noted bean-raiser, describing the proposed variety and giving the name. 'Can you make it for me?' he asked. 'Yes, I will make you the bean,' replied the grower. The seedsman then announced in his catalogue that he would soon introduce a new bean, and, in order to hold the name, he published it along with the announcement. Two years later I visited the bean-grower. 'Did you get that bean?' I asked. 'Yes; here it is.' Sure enough, he had it, and it answered the requirements very well."

—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Annual Report State Geologist of New Jersey for the year 1894. Trenton, 1895. From the Survey.

BARBOZA DU BOCAGE.—Herpétologie d'Angola et du Congo. Lisbonne, 1895. From the author.

BAUR, G.—Die Palatingegend der Ichthyosauria. Aus Anat. Anz., Bd. x, Nr. 14.

—Ueber den Proatlas einer Schildkröte (*Platypeltis spinifer* Les.). Aus Anat. Anz., Bd. X, Nr. 11. From the author.

BREWER, W. H.—Atmospheric Phenomena in the Arctic Regions in their Relation to Dust. Extr. Yale Scientific Month, June, 1895. From the author.

BRONN, H. G.—Klassen und Ordnungen des Thier-Reichs, Sechster Bd. V Abth. 42, 43 u 44, Lief. Leipziz, 1895.

Bulletin No. 30, 1894, and 31, 1895, Agric. Exper. Station Rhode Island College Agric. and Mechanic Arts.

Bulletin No. 44, 1895, Agricultural Experiment Station University of Wisconsin.

Bulletin No. 57, 1895, Massachusetts State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletin No. 112, 1895, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletins Nos. 21, 22 and 23, Wyoming Experiment Station. Laramie, 1895.

Bulletins Nos. 30, 31 and 32, Hatch Experiment Station, Amherst, 1895.

Cambridge Natural History, Vol. V. Peripatus, Adam Sedgwick. Myriapods, F. G. Sinclair. Insects, David Sharp. London and New York, 1895. Macmillan & Co. From John Wanamaker's.

CAMPBELL, D. H.—The Structure and Development of the Mosses and the Ferns. London and New York, 1895. From the Pub., Macmillan & Co.

Check-List of North American Birds. 2d Ed. New York, 1895. From the Am. Ornithol. Union.